

3736-THW

Docket No. GYN-0090

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Gene W. Kammerer et al. Confirmation No.: 4207  
Serial No. : 09/873,571 Art Unit: 3736  
Filed : June 4, 2001 Examiner: John P. Lacyk  
For : Surgical Instrument and Method for Treating Organ  
Prolapse Conditions

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the  
United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed  
to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

March 13, 2006  
(Date of Deposit)

Melissa J. Szanto, Reg. No. 40,834  
(Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative)

/Melissa J. Szanto/  
(Signature)

March 13, 2006  
(Date of Signature)

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

THIRD SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

This copy is supplemental to the Information Disclosure  
Statement mailed on August 30, 2001, December 10, 2004, October  
25, 2005.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and in accordance with 37  
C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, information relating to the above-  
identified application is hereby disclosed. Inclusion of  
information in this statement is not to be construed as an  
admission that this information is material as that term is  
defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to establish the  
patentability of the claimed invention over any of the

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information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist.

☐ In accordance with §1.97(b), since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed either within three months of the filing date of the above-identified national application (other than a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d)), within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of the above identified application as set forth in §1.491, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114, no additional fee is required.

☐ In accordance with §1.129(a), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in connection with ☐ the first or ☐ second After Final Submission, therefore:

- ☐ Statement in Accordance with §1.97(e) (attached); or
- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 10- 0750/ / the fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p).

☐ In accordance with §1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the period set forth in §1.97(b) above but before the mailing date of either a Final Action under §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under §1.311, or

an action that otherwise closes prosecution and that it is accompanied by one of:

- ☐ Statement in Accordance with §1.97(e) (attached); or
- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 10-0750/ / the fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p).

☒ In accordance with §1.97(d), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of either a Final Action under §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under §1.311 but before the payment of the Issue Fee. Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement. Included are: Statement in Accordance with §1.97(e) as set forth below and the fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p).

☒ Copies of only foreign patent documents and non-patent literature are enclosed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98 (a) (2).

☒ There are no listed references which are not in the English language.

☐ The relevance of those listed references which are not in the English language is as follows:

☒ Copy/Copies of European search report(s) from corresponding patent application(s) 03256856.0 (GYN0027EP), is/are attached.

☐ Attached are the following non-published pending patent applications which may be deemed relevant, which are listed on the attached Submission Under MPEP 609 D.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to  
Deposit Account No. 10-0750/GYN90/MJS. This form is submitted  
in triplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

/Melissa J. Szanto/  
Melissa J. Szanto  
Reg. No. 40,834  
Attorney for Applicants

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DATED: March 13, 2006



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/Melissa J. Szanto/

(Signature)

March 13, 2006

(Date of Signature)

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e), certification is hereby  
made that:

☒ Each item of information contained in the information  
disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a  
foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more  
than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure  
Statement; or

☐ No item of information contained in the Information  
Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign

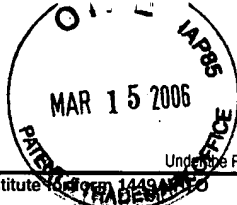
patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

/Melissa J. Szanto/

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DATED: March 13, 2006



Substitute Form 1449

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Confirmation Number	4207
Application Number	09/873,571
Filing Date	06/04/2001
First Named Inventor	Gene W. Kammerer
Group Art Unit	3736
Examiner Name	John P. Lacyk
Attorney Docket Number	GYN-0090

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Exam Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Exam Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup>				
		WO	02/058564	A2	American Medical Systems	08-01-2002		

**OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Exam Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T <sup>2</sup>

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS, SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450